



BY THE NUMBERS

House Committee on the Budget ♦ John R. Kasich, Chairman

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Fixing Our Schools: SPENDING ALONE IS NOT THE ANSWER

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PAST APPROACHES

For nearly 30 years, we have tried to fix our schools just by pouring more money into them. The attempt has not worked:

- < From 1970 through 1997, U.S. per pupil spending in grades kindergarten through 12 rose 91 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars.
- < During this period, the U.S. has reduced class sizes, increased teacher compensation, and provided generous levels of funding for schools to try new programs.
- < The result: Student achievement has remained flat over this period – *more spending has not improved results.*

THE CONTINUING PROBLEM: GRADUATES UNPREPARED TO ENTER AMERICA'S WORKFORCE

Many students who do receive diplomas often lack basic skills needed for the workplace or college. Some statistics:

- < An estimated 190,000 high-tech jobs are unfilled, according to a survey by the Information Technology Association of America, a group of 9,000 of the country's high-tech firms. Some 68 percent of those polled in the technology survey cited "a lack of skilled workers" as a barrier to future growth.
- < Approximately 40 percent of all 17-year-olds lack the math skills, and 60 percent lack the reading skills, to hold down production jobs at a manufacturing company, says a 1998 report by U.S. manufacturers called *Education and Training for America's Future*.
- < For 23.7 percent of adult Americans, literacy is at the lowest level ever, according to the 1997 International Adult Literacy Survey. Some 20 percent to 25 percent of American workers in manufacturing, mining, construction, and hospitality cannot properly fill out a job application or write a receipt.

THE BOTTOM-UP APPROACH

But States, localities, and private citizens across the country are developing real solutions that fix our schools from the bottom up. Some of these innovative approaches will be examined at a House Budget Committee hearing Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in Room 210 of the Cannon House Office Building.